

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The amended claims recite metes and bounds of the invention clearly and definitely. Consequently, it is respectfully requested under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

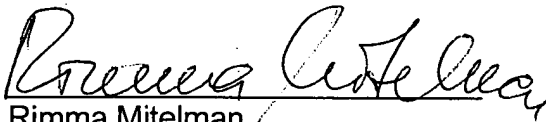
Claims 1, 2, 4, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by JP 61275207 ("JP '207"). Claims 3, 7, 8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '207 as applied to the above claims. Applicants' amended claim 1 recites a laundry detergent composition comprising an herbal extract and a detergent surfactant. JP '207 abstract does not teach laundry detergent compositions or any compositions comprising a surfactant. None of the applicants' laundry detergent surfactant containing compositions recited by dependent claims were rejected over JP '207. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated or rendered obvious by JP '207.

Claims 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP '207 and further in view of Tokubo et al., US Patent 5,165,915. Tokubo was recited by the Examiner for its teaching of clay and water-soluble dye. Tokubo does not remedy the shortcomings of the JP '207 with respect to the amended claim 1, as discussed above. Furthermore, none of applicants' dependent claims comprising a surfactant limitation were rejected over Tokubo. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that applicants' amendment to claim 1 renders the rejections over JP '207, alone or in view of Tokubo, moot.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over JP '207 and Tokubo be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", written over a horizontal line.

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